

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18468 292002Z

47

ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 /004 W

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P 291456Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8224

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18468

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. ON YOUR QUESTION ON POSSIBLE INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MARSHAL KUTAKHOV (STATE 300996) WE SEE NO INDICATION THAT HE IS SHOULDERING OUT BATITSKIY AS CHIEF OF THE PVO AIR FORCES. GEORGE KOLT'S IR 6-901-1178-75 REPORTED CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT KUTAKHOV MAY BE MOVING UP IN THE RANK ORDER OF DEPUTY MINISTERS; BUT KRASNAYA ZVEZDA AS RECENTLY AS DECEMBER 28 STILL REFERS TO BATITSKIY AS "DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE AIR DEFENSE FORCES." IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US THAT KUTAKHOV WOULD BE GIVEN SUPERVISORY POWERS OVER ANOTHER DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER WITHOUT BEING MOVED UP TO FIRST DEPUTY RANK--AND WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD REGARD KUTAKHOV'S ACQUIRING CONTROL OF THE ROCKET FORCES IN PVO AS A MAJOR SHAKEUP IN THE SOVIET COMMAND SYSTEM, AND AS SUCH WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER READILY APPARENT EVIDENCE.

2. PLEASE LET HERBERT MARSHALL KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET REPLY FROM SVIRIDOV, BUT UNION OF COMPOSERS TELLS US HE IS ILL AT HIS DACHA AND IS INCOMMUNICADO FOR MOMENT. (HE IS SAID TO HAVE MISSED HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT UNION LAST WEEK.) WE WILL CONTINUE TO  
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TRY TO GET ANSWER.

3. RE STATE 298652, WE HAVE SENT SOME TALKING POINTS TO  
AMBASSADOR ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS CARE OF YOU IN  
DECEMBER 27 POUCH. YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN READING AS  
INDICATION OF OUR VIEW ON NUMBER OF CURRENT SUBJECTS.  
MATLOCK

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NNN

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